



United States Capitol Visitor Center Weekly Construction Summary



Prepared by the Capitol Visitor Center Project Office, Architect of the Capitol

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Inset: In August 2002, nearly six years ago this week, excavators began removing the asphalt parking lot that dominated the East Capitol Grounds. (Coincidentally, excavation for the original Capitol foundations began in the month of August, in 1793.) **Main photo:** Today, all of the historical landscape features, including fountains, lanterns, seatwalls and lamp-posts, have been returned to their original locations. When landscape work is completed later this fall, a total of 85 new trees and thousands of new shrubs will line pedestrians paths that are faithful to the original Capitol approaches designed by Frederick Law Olmsted in his 1874 plan. Olmsted's curvilinear design for both the East and West Capitol Grounds was intended to "break from the tyranny of the grid" and establish a softer park-like setting that would not compete with, but instead highlight the formality of the Capitol and its majestic dome.

This Week – Ongoing Work – 7/28/08 through 8/1/08

- Workers continue preparatory work in Emancipation Hall related to the relocation of the plaster model of the Statue of Freedom, which is currently being disassembled in the cellar rotunda of the Russell Senate Office Building. The move of the model of Freedom to Emancipation will be completed early this fall.
- Crews continue to clean the stone floors throughout the CVC. Follow-on crews have begun applications of a stone sealant that provides protection to the stone while giving it a non-slip surface.
- Throughout the CVC, technicians continue final acceptance testing on the facility's complex fire and life-safety systems. Last week, the AOC Fire Marshal issued a temporary Certificate of Occupancy for the facility that allows for the installation of furniture and equipment.
- Painters, carpenters, plumbers, masons, electricians, cleaning crews and other professionals continue to address punchlist items throughout the facility.
- Exhibit contractors have now completed the installation of many of the image panels in the Exhibition Hall (see photo opposite page).



CVC exhibit contractors have installed many of the exhibit images in the CVC Exhibition Hall. Many images, like some of the framed Senatorial portraits seen above, have been delivered to their exhibit cases and will be anchored in their final positions later this summer.

Next Week – 8/4/08 – 8/8/08

- Technicians will continue the final testing process for the CVC's complex fire and life-safety systems.
- Punchlist work will continue throughout interior spaces as crews work on millwork, wall stone, floor stone, grout lines, painted surfaces, ceiling panels, plaster work, doors, and other finish materials.
- An exhibit contractor may continue adjustments to panels and graphics in the House and Senate History cases. Also in the Hall, work will continue to address the Wall of Aspirations to ensure a specialized fire suppressant gas is adequately contained within the wall.
- Masons will continue grout work and other stone detail work at the Rotunda and Gallery levels in the East Front of the Capitol while stone floors are sealed with a protective, non-slip coating.
- Metal workers will continue installing interior bronze handrails along the south staircase in the East Front Extension.
- Waterproofing tests and analysis work will continue for the pedestrian tunnel to Library of Congress. Terrazzo floor installation is expected to resume in the tunnel in August.
- Work to adjust emergency egress stairs near the face of the Capitol is nearing completion.
- Outside, landscape crews will continue tree and shrub plantings in areas within or adjacent to the CVC entrances.

For additional information about the CVC project, contact the project communications officer, Tom Fontana, at tfontana@auc.gov or visit the project web site at www.auc.gov. Be sure to click on the "Capitol Visitor Center" link on the homepage.